



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Maryland Correctional Institution for Women
to be showcased on
*CNN's Larry King Live***

TOWSON, MD (July 1, 2008) --- The Maryland Correctional Institution for Women will be featured TONIGHT, July 1st, on Larry King Live during his long running interview program on CNN at 9pm ET. The Maximum Security facility, located in Jessup, is the only State prison in the Maryland Division of Correction that holds female offenders.

TONIGHT's show takes a deep look at the dynamics of prison life while following five offenders through their daily routines as well as the institution's Warden Brenda Shell. Former MCIW offender Felecia "Snoop" Pearson, an actress on the HBO Series *The Wire*, also joins the interview session to talk about her experiences and her current role in helping other offenders make positive changes to lead a crime free life.

Audiences have a chance to learn not only about the daily life of these five women, but also the programming available at the institution. Therapeutic treatment, peer mentoring, youth advocacy programs, job skills training and other valuable opportunities are given to these offenders in hopes of helping them return to society with the tools necessary to be productive citizens, mothers, daughters and much more.

"Many of these women are in here as a result of being battered both mentally and physically themselves, which lead to a path of drugs or crime. Treating those deep emotional and dependency scars through support groups and treatment programs is our basis for allowing them to see their mistakes and make a difference in their future," iterates Warden Shell.

Job skills training and work opportunities gives this population, half of which will eventually return to society, the chance to build a reliable foundation to support themselves and their family upon release. The women also have the chance to give back to the community while incarcerated through programs such as training puppies for handicap citizens and an impact program that brings local school-age girls into the institution to see what crime can lead to and lets the offenders dissuade the girls from potentially following in their footsteps through creative outlets.

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